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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,023	06/27/2001	Frank O'Mahony	884.405US1	3406

7590 01/22/2004

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EXAMINER

SEFER, AHMED N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2826

DATE MAILED: 01/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/893,023

Applicant(s)

O'MAHONY ET AL.

Examiner

A. Sefer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-18 and 26-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-18, 26, 34-40 and 42-45 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 27, 28 and 31-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 29, 30 and 41 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 20, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 41 which depends on claim 34 is objected to because of the following informalities: Since the first and second differential lines of claim 41 have different structure/function from the first and second differential lines of claim 34, it is suggested that the first and second differential lines of claim 41 should read the third and fourth differential lines. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

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4. Claims 27, 28 and 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee et al. USPN 6,144,224.

Lee et al disclose (see figs. 2-5 and abstract) a microelectronic die comprising a clock signal source 49 to provide a clock signal; and a clock signal distribution network to distribute the clock signal to multiple clocked elements within the microelectronic die using salphasic (low skew) clocking techniques, the clock signal distribution network including a number of on-die interconnect sections having first 44a and second 44b differential signal lines on a first metal A/B layer of the microelectronic die, the first and second differential signal lines being substantially parallel to one another; and a number of conductive links 41a/41b, wherein a first conductive link of the number of conductive links couples the first differential signal line of a first one of the interconnect sections to the first differential signal line of the second one of the interconnect sections and a second conductive link of the number of conductive links couples the second differential signal line of the first one of the interconnect sections to the second differential signal line of the second one of the interconnect sections.

As for claim 28, Lee et al disclose a microelectronic die including a microprocessor circuitry 45.

As for claims 31-33, Lee et al disclose a number of traces 41a/41b including signal lines (as in claim 33) on metal layer A/B being capacitively coupled to and non-parallel or substantially orthogonal (as in claim 32) with said first and second differential signal lines.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 13-18, 26, 34-40 and 42-45 are allowed.
6. Claim 41 is objected to because of the above stated informalities.

Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No.

09/893,023

Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
O'MAHONY ET AL.

Examiner

A. Sefer

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-6,144,224	11-2000	Lee et al.	326/93
	B	US-6,532,544	03-2003	Masleid et al.	713/500
	C	US-5,397,943	03-1995	West et al.	326/39
	D	US-6,005,428	12-1999	Amdahl, Gene M.	327/161
	E	US-2003/0001652	01-2003	O'Mahony et al.	327/295
	F	US-6,411,151	06-2002	Nair et al.	327/291
	G	US-6,570,429	05-2003	Hellriegel, Stephen V. R.	327/295
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N	JP 1-289155	11-1989	Japan	Yamaguchi	
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.